

Suggested opening statement for Prof. Eddy Maloka, CEO, APRM
occasion: **African Regional Workshop on Effective Governance for Sustainable Development: Putting Principles into Practice**

October 30th – Nov 1st, 2019
venue: the CAPITAL Pretoria

Dr. Maria-Francesca Spatolisano, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, UNDESA

H.E. Mr. Oumar Defallah Khayar, Chairperson of APRM Focal Points

Dr. Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi, Chancellor of Nelson Mandela University and Chair of United Nations Committee of Experts on Public Administration,

Distinguished guests, APRM focal points and family members,

Good morning and thank you all for joining us in this important meeting. It gives me great pleasure to welcome you in Pretoria to deliberate on CEPA principles for effective governance of sustainable development, which significantly contributes to the attainment of Agenda 2030 for sustainable development and 2063 '**Africa we want**' in which concerns SDG 16 for effective institutions and inclusive societies.

Since the adoption of Agenda 2063, the APRM has committed itself for the promulgation of AU shared values and the union's interests for economically integrated, peacefully- maintained, and sustainably- developed Africa, in compliance with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In 2017, the APRM was assigned to an expanded mandate by the AU Assembly to support MSs in monitoring and reporting on Agenda 2063 and its 10-year implementation plan, particularly Aspiration 3 - which encounters SDG 16 on **good governance, peaceful and inclusive societies and institutions** and Aspiration for – **A peaceful and Secure Africa**.

These developments come in tandem to reshape the APRM position among AU family organs. Under this mandate, the APRM is engaged with AU member states in various activities including supporting the UN-AU framework for the implementation of the said development agendas especially under the **Regional Coordination Mechanism** (RCM) in Cluster 8: Advocacy, information, communication and culture; and cluster 9: Cluster 9: Governance, Peace, and Security.

The APRM also has strategic responsibilities toward supporting AU member states in the preparations of UN Voluntary National Review, encouraging peer-learning and exchanging experiences on best strategies and practices of SDGs planning and evaluation as well as conducting research products on governance

indicators and status in the continent. We are also expecting to assist member states in adopting ***the Agenda 2063 validated reporting framework*** – which is foreseen to be officially consolidated in Addis Ababa next week.

The institutional aspects of SDG 16, which are concerned by CEPA principles, Inclusiveness, Accountability, and Effectiveness emanate cross-cutting principles within our assessment to the overall governance performance of any African country. That said, **progress towards SDG 16 is challenging for various technical and political reasons in Africa**. Specific indicators of the stated goal require strong political commitment by states, i.e., fighting corruption, reducing violence and improving human rights conditions. On the other hand, statistical gaps and the complicated measurability of SDG 16 hurdle accurate reporting on the said goal by many countries, even outside Africa. Out of the 23 indicators used to monitor Goal 16, few signs are readily be measured by countries.

Against these challenges, countries like **Uganda, Kenya, and Ghana** are promising examples from Africa on reporting on SDG 16 in light of their national commitment to open up spaces for public citizens to reflect on political issues and development challenges. Furthermore, they have boosted their national statistical capacities for this objective. In Uganda, out of 23 SDG 16 indicators, 21 have full or partial data support, and only two indicators lack any data.

Throughout its revitalizing process, the APRM, as Africa's tool for promoting good governance and developing the notion of voluntary-basis peer review, developed a framework for governance assessment, which shall assist in reporting on some of SDG 16 indicators, particularly the political governance aspect. That said, Indicators are not yet agreed upon and validated by all Member States. We are also developing the APRM questionnaire to integrate further questions on the SDGs indicators, including SDG 16, to monitor the overall implementation of SDGs and agenda 2063 aspirations 3 &4.

SDG 16 is visibly relevant to the national governance framework of each country. Therefore, the focus should be more on in-depth qualitative assessments that can help to unpack the complexities of governance in many countries in Africa. Qualitative assessments are challenging, but so too are governance and peace and security. A sensitive and nuanced measurement approach is thus called for.

Recently, the APRM signed an MOU with the OECD to display African countries' experiences in the Global Hub for the governance of SDGs. The APRM shall feed into the hub in different ways including the pillar of **Strengthening people-focused justice delivery to ensure equal access to justice for all**. The APRM intends to, in collaboration with African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, to conduct further national and regional workshops with civil society, women, and private sector, through our NGCs, to realize and assess people's satisfaction on their government's performance.

How the APRM shall support this, and what do we expect from CEPA-APRM workshop?

The APRM is privileged by the membership of 38 countries and its continental networks via APRM National Governance Councils and Secretariats to assist in operationalizing CEPA principles at national levels. Therefore, we look forward to capitalizing on this gathering to fulfil the following expectations:

1) raising awareness among public sector bureaucracies' representatives as regard CEPA principles and how these principles are put into actions through national frameworks for monitoring SDGs as well as Agenda 2063 aspirations;

2) engaging different stakeholders from the AU, UN, and governmental entities to develop dialogue over SDG 16 institutional principles, progress, challenges and available tools to enhance its implementation in Africa.

3) taking stoke of African countries to progress towards indicators, data harmonization challenges and progress towards linking indicators to the principles of effective governance

4) building on the current tools dedicated to monitoring SDG 16 to develop a complementary tool to report on institutional aspects of SDG 16- CEPA principles (CEPA_APRM joint activity) to be launched by 2020.

Last but not least, I thank Mme. Geraldine Moleketi for her support to count on the APRM regional efforts to promote good governance in Africa and to encourage the APRM- UN DESA partnership, which is emphasized by this workshop.

I wish you fruitful discussions and welcome once again ...

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